

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Currently Amended) A surgical towel, comprising:

a sheet of woven fabric comprising at least one stitched hem;

a synthetic or cotton yarn sewing thread of a different color than a color of the fabric for stitching the hem, the synthetic or cotton yarn sewing thread color visually identifying the surgical towel as x-ray detectable when said surgical towel is external to a patient's body; and

at least one piece of x-ray detectable material attached to the fabric by the thread, the x-ray detectable material protruding from the hem allowing visual identification of the x-ray detectable material's location, the x-ray detectable material comprising identifying characteristics to identify an x-rayed object as a surgical towel, said identifying characteristics chosen from the group consisting of a predetermined shape, a predetermined coding indicia, and a predetermined number indicia.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 38, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material comprises Barite, Barium, or BaSO₄.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 38, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable further comprises polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Claim 41 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 38, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material comprises 60% BaSO₄ and 40% PVC.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 38, whereby the sheet of woven fabric comprises cotton, synthetic material or a combination of these.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 38, whereby the sheet of woven fabric is single-ply.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 38, whereby the x-ray detectable material is a flexible strip through which the hem stitching is sewn.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended) A surgical towel comprising:
a sheet of single-ply woven cotton fabric having four edges;

at least one hem stitched in at least one of the four edges;

a synthetic or cotton yarn sewing thread of a different color than a color of the cotton fabric for stitching the at least one hem, the color of the synthetic or cotton yarn sewing thread visually identifying the surgical towel as x-ray detectable when said surgical towel is external to a patient's body; and

at least one piece of x-ray detectable material attached to the fabric by the thread, the x-ray detectable material protruding from the hem allowing visual identification of the x-ray detectable material's location, the x-ray detectable material comprising identifying characteristics to identify an x-rayed object as a surgical towel, said identifying characteristics chosen from the group consisting of a predetermined shape, a predetermined coding indicia, and a predetermined number indicia.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 45, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material comprises Barite, Barium, or BaSO₄.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 45, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material further comprises polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Claim 48 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 45, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material comprises 60% BaSO₄ and 40% PVC.

Claim 49-50 (Canceled).

Claim 51 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 45, whereby the x-ray detectable material is a flexible strip through which the hem stitching is sewn.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended) A surgical towel comprising:

a sheet of single-ply woven cotton fabric having four edges;

at least one hem stitched in at least one of the four edges;

a synthetic or cotton yarn sewing thread of a different color than a color of the cotton fabric for stitching the at least one hem, the color of the synthetic or cotton yarn sewing thread visually identifying the surgical towel as x-ray detectable when said surgical towel is external to a patient's body; and

at least one piece of x-ray detectable material through which the hem stitching is sewn, the x-ray detectable material protruding from the hem but not extending past an edge of the fabric, allowing visual identification of the x-ray detectable material's location, the x-ray detectable material comprising identifying characteristics to identify an x-rayed object as a surgical towel, said identifying characteristics chosen from the group consisting of a predetermined shape, a predetermined coding indicia, and a predetermined number indicia.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 52, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material comprises Barite, Barium, or BaSO₄.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 52, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material further comprises polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Claim 55 (Previously Presented) The surgical towel of claim 52, whereby the piece of x-ray detectable material comprises 60% BaSO₄ and 40% PVC.

Claim 56-57 (Canceled).